

**REMARKS**

Claims 9-12 and 26 have been allowed. These claims have not been amended herein. Claims 22-25 have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the pending 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections and include all of the limitations of the intervening claims.

By this amendment, rejected claims 3 and 4 have been canceled and claims 22-25 have been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection by eliminating the terms "it" and its."

---

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9-12, and 22-26 are in condition for allowance, and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections.

If there are any additional fees or refunds, the Commissioner is hereby directed to charge or debit Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Respectfully submitted for,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN

February 5, 2004

By:   
Bryan J. Lempia  
Reg. No. 39,746  
6300 Sears Tower  
233 South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6402  
(312) 474-6300